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**Driffield  
Rural District Council.**



**Annual and Survey  
Report**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of  
Health,  
For the Year 1925.**



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# Driffield Rural District Council.

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## Medical Officer's Annual & Survey Report for 1925.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Driffield Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1925. Embodied in the Report is a Survey of the Sanitary circumstances in the district during the last five years and of the progress made in the improvement of the public health.

The various headings and the arrangement of the Report generally are as specified by the Ministry of Health.

### Natural and Social Conditions.

The Driffield rural district covers an area of 106,417 acres. For administrative purposes it is divided into four sub-districts, those of Driffield, Bainton, Langtoft and Foston. There are 41 parishes, ranging from Nafferton with the largest population of 1,237 to Bracken with a population of only 13. The total population of the district at the Census of 1921 was 11,646, whilst the number estimated to be living in the district on June 30th, 1925, was 11,570. At the time of the Census the number of inhabited houses was 2,732 and the number of families or separate occupiers 2,744. The rateable value of the district is £126,685, and the sum represented by a penny rate £245.

The district is roughly triangular in area and extends about 16 miles from north to south and 14 from east to west. Situated about the centre is the Driffield Urban area, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 2 miles broad.

In contour, the district can be divided into two parts. The larger, roughly comprising the sub-districts of Bainton and Langtoft, is hilly in character and lies on the Wolds to the north and west. The smaller part, including the Driffeld and Foston sub-districts lies to the south east and is comparatively flat. The average elevation of the hilly part is between 500 and 600 feet above sea level, rising to about 700 feet near Towthorpe, whilst the lowest part in the south east is Watton Carr, not more than ten feet above sea level. The hill ranges are composed of chalk which is said to be from 1200 to 1500 feet in thickness and which in many places comes almost up to the surface. On the lower levels in the south east alluvial surface deposits and clay cover the chalk to the depth of 12 or 15 feet, below which there is a thickness of 400 or 500 feet of chalk resting on Kimmeridge clay. Several small streams arise at the foot of the hills and flowing south-easterly join the river Hull. In the northern part of the district the Gipsy Race flows easterly through the Wolds to eventually reach the sea at Bridlington. Owing to the paucity of trees, the district is somewhat bleak in aspect, but it is bracing and dry. The average annual rainfall is about 26 inches.

The chief occupation is agriculture, the district being noted as a corn growing area. Other occupations are nearly all more or less dependent on agriculture. The inhabitants are for the most part healthy and vigorous, due to their living sober, hard working out of door lives. They frequently live to a good old age. Formerly, transport facilities were very poor, but since the advent of motor transport and cycles, the inhabitants are enabled to spend more of their leisure hours in the adjacent towns where there are Kinemas and other attractions. In addition, concerts, whist drives and dances not infrequently take place in the villages. Out door sports, such as cricket and football are also popular.

### **VITAL STATISTICS.**

During the past five years the Birth Rate has progressively diminished from 24.5 per 1000 per annum in 1921 to 18.8 in 1925. This heavy fall is not peculiar to the district but is common to the Country as a whole. No doubt there are many factors operating to produce this result, among which may be mentioned fewer marriages, the large number of men of marriageable age who succumbed in the war, the difficulty of obtaining houses and strained economic conditions generally.

During the same period the Death Rate has remained approximately stationary, varying from 12.1 per 1000 per annum in 1921 to 12.9 in 1925.

The Infant Mortality Rate also shows little change, although this is liable to vary between fairly wide limits according to climatic and epidemic conditions each year. The Rate in 1921 was 83 per 1000 births, whilst last year it was 87.

The following are the Vital Statistics for 1925.

### **BIRTHS.**

During the past year there were 218 births, of which 114 were boys and 104 were girls. This gives a Birth Rate of 18.8 per 1000 per annum. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.3.

Included in the above are 22 illegitimate births (12 boys and 10 girls) which gives an illegitimate birth rate of 1.9 per 1000 of the population.



## DEATHS.

There were 150 deaths, of which 84 were males and 66 females. This is equivalent to a Death Rate of 12.9 per 1000 per annum. This compares with an average of 12.2 for the whole country.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age, of which only one was illegitimate. This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 87.1 per 1000 births, which compares with 75 for the whole of England and Wales.

There was one death under 2 years of age from diarrhoea, equivalent to a rate of 4.6 per 1000 births. This compares with an average of 8.4 for the whole country.

There were 3 deaths from whooping cough and none from measles (all ages).

No deaths from puerperal sepsis were recorded, but there was one death from other causes arising out of childbirth.

The following are the numbers and causes of death :—

	Total	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	3	2	1
Influenza	9	8	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	2	3
Other tuberculosis diseases	3	3	0
Cancer, malignant disease	23	14	9
Diabetes	1	1	0
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	7	4	3
Heart disease	13	5	8
Arterio-Sclerosis	11	5	6
Bronchitis	6	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	3	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	0
Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	1	0
Acute and chronic nephritis	4	3	1
Accidents and diseases of pregnancy (not sepsis)	1	0	1
Congenital debility and premature birth	7	2	5
Suicide	2	0	2
Other deaths from violence	3	3	0
Other defined diseases	43	24	19
	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 84	<hr/> 66

## POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is low, and is likely to be lower still in the future with the introduction of widow's pensions. Although wages compare unfavourably with those in industrial areas, the inhabitants are for the most part thrifty. Even where necessary they do not readily apply for Poor Law Relief. In this respect they compare very favourably with the neighbouring Urban District. Hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical Relief are utilized when necessary.

There have not been any causes of sickness or invalidity which are specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review, and there are no special conditions of occupation or environment which have a prejudicial effect on health.

## General Provision of Health Services.

Being a rural district, there are no hospitals or treatment centres within the area. The following, however, supply the needs of the population, and are usually fairly accessible.

### 1. Hospitals provided or subsidized by the County Council.

(a) **Tuberculosis.** The Raywell Sanatorium, Cottingham, supplies the needs of the district in common with the rest of the East Riding. The East Riding retains 29 beds for adults and 14 for children.

(b) **Maternity.** There is a maternity home in Driffeld which serves the rural as well as the urban district. There are a few beds for lying-in cases and a resident Health Visitor is in charge who is fully qualified to attend cases of confinement. The weekly charge for admission is 30/-, but this charge may be reduced or remitted in necessitous cases.

(c) **Children.** None.

(d) **Fever.** An isolation hospital for infectious diseases is maintained in the Driffeld urban area, which serves the needs of the district together with most of the East Riding. It provides accommodation for 30 beds and 6 cots in 6 wards. It is well equipped and efficient, and has been of great use to the district in preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

(e) **Smallpox.** A smallpox isolation hospital is maintained at Shipton, near Market Weighton. This has recently been enlarged and there is now accommodation for 20 beds.

### 2. Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

There is none within the district. Such cases are usually dealt with at the Driffeld Poor Law Institution. There is also the East Riding Hostel for Rescue and Preventive Work in Driffeld, which deals with these cases. This is a philanthropic institution.

### 3. Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained in readiness at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Driffeld for the transport of all cases of infectious disease. Non-infectious and accident cases generally rely on motor cars. There is also a Red Cross ambulance at Beverley which is convenient for the removal of non-infectious cases to Hull. This is maintained by the County Council. The mileage fee has been fixed at 1/-, but this charge is reduced or remitted if thought necessary.

### 4. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) **Maternity and Child Welfare.** This centre is established in Driffeld in connection with the Maternity Home mentioned above. It is maintained by the County Council. A reception is held once a fortnight and advice given as to the feeding and general care of infants. There is a Superintendent and four assistant Health Visitors who visit cases of expectant and nursing mothers and children, and are authorised to order milk and such other foods as they consider necessary.



(b) **School Clinics.** The School Medical Officers visit the schools from time to time and examine the scholars.

(c) **Tuberculosis Dispensaries.** There are none in the district. The Medical Officer of Raywell Sanatorium visits cases in the district on notification, and all suitable cases are admitted to the Sanatorium.

(d) **Venereal Diseases.** These are practically non-existent in the district. Cases may be treated at the Royal Infirmary, Hull, or at the County Hospital, York, free of charge.

## 5. Professional Nursing in the Home.

There are no arrangements for the nursing of general or infectious cases in which the Local Authority or County Council are directly concerned. The East Riding Nurses' Home, in Driffield, which is a private institution, supplies general and maternity nurses to subscribers in the district, in common with a large part of the East Riding. A staff of about 50 nurses is maintained.

## 6. Mid-wives.

The Local Authority does not employ or subsidize practising mid-wives.

## 7. Public Health Officers.

The staff consists of the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor. These are all part-time appointments, with the exception of the Sanitary Inspector.

The other public offices held by the Staff are as follows:—The Clerk, Clerk to the Guardians; the M.O.H., Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Guardians, the Sanitary Surveyor, Highways Surveyor.

Half of the salaries of the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector is provided by Exchequer Grant.

## 8. Legislation in Force.

The following Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, Regulations, etc., relating to the public Health are in force in the area:—

DATE ADOPTED.	ADOPTIVE ACTS.
18th Nov., 1909.	Part V and certain sections of Parts II, III and IV of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907.
31st March, 1913.	Sub-Section (3) of Section 23 and Sections 25 and 33 of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.

### BYELAWS, REGULATIONS, ETC.

5th April, 1900.	Scavenging Byelaws (except the parish or contributory place of Nafferton).
1st Oct., 1903.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.
18th April, 1913.	Building Byelaws.
22nd Jan., 1923.	Compulsory notification of Chickenpox.
21st July, 1925.	Slaughter House Byelaws.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1—Water.

The water supplies of the district may be set out under three headings

- (a) Bores, Wells and Springs.
- (b) Rainwater.
- (c) Waterworks.

(a) Bores, wells and springs are the commonest sources of water supply. Nearly all the lower lying parts of the district, i.e. up to about 150 feet above sea level, rely on these means. Bores which are sunk through the overlying soil and clay and into the chalk to a depth of 100 or 150 feet are quite satisfactory, as they tap an abundant supply of good water. Shallow wells are not so satisfactory, and they must always be regarded with suspicion owing to their liability to contamination from surface surroundings. This is particularly the case in villages, or in the neighbourhood of foldyards, etc. During the period under review, the public shallow wells at Garton were found to be unsatisfactory in this respect and they have been replaced by three bores. Similarly, the public shallow well at Butterwick, which had long been unsatisfactory, has been replaced by a deep bore. These bores are quite satisfactory.

(b) Rainwater is almost the only source of domestic supply on the higher levels. The great thickness of chalk comprising the Wolds is apparently an insuperable obstacle, making it impracticable to bore for water. The village of Wetwang, with a population of 484 relies entirely on rain water, whilst each farmstead has its own storage cistern. These cisterns are underground and, unless carefully protected, are liable to surface pollution. Moreover, the conditions under which the water is stored are not always satisfactory, the cisterns being sometimes left uncleansed for years. There has, however, been no illness reported from this cause during the past five years. In times of drought this type of water supply is liable to become exhausted, in which case water has to be carried in carts from the lower levels, in some cases considerable distances. In 1923 a supplementary cistern of 8,000 gallons capacity was installed at Wetwang, owing to lack of water during the drought of the previous year.

(c) The only waterworks in the district are at Nafferton. This is the largest village and contains a population of 1,237. The works were open in 1912, and were undertaken owing to a severe outbreak of enteric fever resulting from several contaminated shallow wells in the village. The bore is over 250 feet deep and is sunk into the chalk of Nafferton Wold. The water is raised by a wind engine and an oil engine, either of which can be used separately or both simultaneously. The supply is continuous and of excellent quality. Practically the whole of Nafferton is supplied by the waterworks, the water being laid on to the houses.

During the past year the public pump at Skerne was renewed, several improvements being carried out at the same time. Repairs were undertaken to various pumps in the district from time to time, and the village ponds were cleaned during dry periods.

### 2—Rivers and Streams.

These take the effluents from the drains of various villages and farmsteads, but there is no pollution. and, therefore, no action has been necessary.



### 3—Drainage and Sewerage.

With the exception of Garton and Wetwang the larger villages are provided with covered main drains to receive slop water. Garton and Wetwang have open channels running alongside the main street and into which sink waste is discharged. The smaller and more scattered villages and isolated farm houses deal individually with their own sewage, etc. In only three parishes have sewerage systems been installed, and where human sewage can be dealt with.

The undermentioned groups show generally in what manner the sewage is disposed of :—

Sewerage systems, with settling tanks, irrigation trenches and filter beds :—Kilham (except West End), Nafferton (except Station Road).

Sewerage system with settling tank, overflow tank and soakaway :—Middleton.

Covered main drains with outfalls to soakaways, cesspools or open land drains, etc. :—Bainton, Beeford, North Dalton (part), Fimber, Foston, North Frodingham, Harpham, Hutton Cranswick, Great Kelk, Kirkburn, Ruston Parva, Skerne, Sledmere, Southburn, Tibthorpe, Wansford and Watton. The open drains receiving the sewage are kept cleaned out and with a free run.

Open channel to open land drain :—Garton.

Covered main drains to cesspools with overflows to ponds :—North Dalton (part), Little Driffeld, Foxholes and Langtoft.

Open channel to Pond :—Wetwang.

The parishes of Luttons Ambo and Weaverthorpe have no main drain and sewage is discharged into the Gipse Race when not deposited on the gardens.

In the remaining parishes which are small or scattered the drainage and sewage disposal is dealt with individually, by means of cesspools, etc., periodically cleansed.

During the past year parts of the main sewers at Middleton and Bainton were relaid, the Wansford main drain partially reconstructed and the Kilham filter beds improved.

### Closet Accommodation.

There are comparatively few W.C.'s in the district, pail closets and privies being the more common arrangement. It is the definite policy in the district to convert the insanitary type of privy to the pail closet, the latter being the more sanitary. Water Closets, in the hands of those who would keep them in working order and in a sanitary condition, are the best type and there should be more of these in those places which can deal with human sewage. The following list gives the numbers of each type in the district :—



PARISH	Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privies	PARISH	Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privies
Bainton	2	58	24	Kilham	4	137	87
Beeford	2	129	27	Kirkburn	1	18	9
Bracken	0	2	1	Langtoft	1	94	37
Brigham	0	6	6	Lowthorpe	5	16	16
Butterwick	0	7	3	Luttons Ambo	1	51	20
Cottam	3	9	2	Middleton	6	88	55
Cowlam	0	7	3	Nafferton	23	250	32
Dalton North	2	36	47	Neswick	4	6	4
Eastburn	2	4	2	Rotsea	2	2	2
Elmswell, &c.,	3	41	18	Ruston Parva	0	12	6
Fimber	0	12	20	Skerne	0	19	14
Foxholes	0	38	12	Sledmere	12	70	20
Foston	3	36	19	Southburn	10	16	6
Frodingham, North	1	108	34	Sunderlandwick	7	10	2
Garton	3	67	25	Tibthorpe	2	36	19
Gembling	0	17	2	Towthorpe	4	2	6
Harpham	0	22	19	Wansford	1	40	3
Helpertorpe	0	19	10	Watton	1	31	21
Hutton Cranswick	2	152	106	Weaverthorpe	0	77	15
Kelk, Great	1	16	17	Wetwang	2	108	10
Kelk, Little	1	9	4	Totals	111	1878	785

### Scavenging.

Nafferton is the only village in the district where public scavenging is in force. It is undertaken by contract, and the contractor carries out his duties in an efficient manner. All excreta, etc., are disposed of by the contractor.

In all other parishes the householders are obliged to remove and dispose of excreta and refuse in the most adaptable manner, generally by digging into the soil of the garden. It cannot be said that all is dealt with in an efficient manner, as, where there is no garden, or the garden is small, the householder is often at a loss to know what means of disposal to adopt. As a result, privies are sometimes neglected for long periods and are liable to become a menace to the health of the neighbourhood. It is desirable that public scavenging should be extended to include the larger villages of the area.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following tabular statement has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector and shows the work done during the past year :—

Dwelling houses inspected	429
do. notices served	94
New Houses built	7
Have Building Byelaws being adopted ?	Yes.
Dwelling houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	11
do. after cases of phthisis	3
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	none.
Dwelling houses found overcrowded	5
Privies converted to W.C's.	none.
do. to pail closets	19
Offensive trades inspected	4
Total number of nuisances found	43
do. do. abated	43



**Water Supplies.**

Houses newly supplied from water mains	none.
New wells made	none
New bore wells made	4
Wells closed, water unsafe	none.
Samples of water sent for examination	4
Water certificates granted to new houses	none.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Have regulations been adopted?	Yes.
Date of adoption	Oct. 1st, 1903
Number of dairies and cowsheds on register	116
Number of cows	442
Visits to cowsheds	137
do. dairies	70
Defects found	12
do. remedied	12

**Slaughter Houses.**

Number on Register	19
do. of visits to	293
do. of defects found	16
do. do. remedied	16

**Unwholesome Food condemned.**

Meat.	784 lbs. of beef, 322 lbs. of mutton, 140 lbs. of pork, internal organs of 11 carcasses.
Fish	none.
Fruit	none.
Other Foods	none.

**Common Lodging Houses**

none.

**Canal Boats inspected**

2

**Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.** Inspection of

Factories	2
Workshops	112
Workplaces	none
Defects found—Want of cleanliness	10
do. remedied	10
Want of ventilation	1
do. remedied	1
Sanitary accommodation defective	1
do. remedied	1

**Schools.** The general sanitary condition is good and regular attention is given to the cleansing of the closet accommodation. Pans are provided, except at Nafferton, where the laid-on supply of water admits of the water carriage system being installed. The water supply is from the local public supplies and is generally good. Occasionally it has been necessary to close individual schools to prevent the spread of infectious disease among the scholars. This refers chiefly to influenza, measles and whooping cough. When necessary, disinfection is carried out.



## Housing.

**General Conditions.** Compared with agricultural districts generally, the housing conditions of the area may be said to be fair. The economic condition of the agricultural industry, the low wages and the inability of the labourer to pay anything but a low rent, results in a low standard of house. Wages, therefore, govern the standard. Regarding shortage of houses, it may be mentioned that during the last intercensal period the population decreased by 463, or roughly 4 per cent., whilst at the time of the 1921 census the 2,744 private families in the district were occupying 2,732 structurally separate dwellings. From this it appears that there is not a great shortage of houses. On the other hand, there are houses throughout the district which are unfit or below a reasonable standard, and which it is difficult or impossible to repair. These should be replaced by new houses. During the past five years measures have been taken by the Council to meet any shortage and the following houses have been built:—Kilham 4, Nafferton 3, Watton 2, Cranswick 8, Wetwang 4, and North Frodingham 4. Further building is also contemplated as follows:—Cranswick 8, Middleton 4, Nafferton 4, Skerne 2, Watton 2, and Wetwang 4, whilst other places are under consideration.

No important changes have taken place in the population during the last five years, and none is anticipated in the future.

**Overcrowding.** Whilst there are cases of overcrowding in the district, the extent is small. In some cases it is caused by inability to obtain houses, as, for example, newly married people. In other cases large families are living in houses too small or with too few rooms. The measures taken or contemplated are by providing more and better houses as mentioned above.

**Fitness of Houses.** As already mentioned, the general standard of housing in the area is low. The defects found to exist in unfit houses are dampness and decay, bad foundations, structural defects, smallness of rooms, low ceilings and lack of sufficient window space and ventilation. As regards management by owners, there is usually no difficulty in getting small defects remedied, but the low rents and high cost of building materials and labour often preclude any large expenditure on repairs. In some cases also there is waste and neglect by a certain class of tenants. As regards action under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Acts, it may be said that where a house is below a reasonable standard, action is taken, and where a house is unfit for human habitation, demolition is carried out as soon as it becomes vacant. No statutory action has been necessary during the past five years.

**Byelaws relating to Houses.** These have worked well in the past, plans being submitted to the Sanitary Surveyor and his wishes carried out. Some revision, however, of the Building Byelaws is desirable. It should be compulsory for plans to be submitted for alterations and additions and to enforce suitable heights of rooms, etc. Usually this is done, but at present the Council has no power to enforce conditions, except that the M.O.H. may, on medical grounds, condemn the structure on completion.

**Housing Statistics for the year 1925.** The following tabular statement has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector:—  
Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total (including numbers under (b) )



- (b) With State assistance under Housing Acts
- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| (i) By the Local Authority      | none |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | none |

Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection :

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)                      | 429 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910            | 314 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 4   |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation       | 19  |

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	19
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Action under Statutory Powers	none
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## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**Milk Supply.** The milk supply of the district is purely local, whilst a fair quantity is sent into Bridlington and Hull from the parishes near the railway. In the greater part of the district the agricultural labourers obtain their supplies from employers, and in Nafferton only it is delivered from door to door by the retailers. The wholesomeness of the milk is generally good.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are all administered by the Sanitary Inspector. Inspections are carried out regularly and ventilation and cleanliness of premises and utensils are enforced.

No action has been taken during the period under review regarding tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations and no bacteriological examinations have been made.

**Meat.** The Sanitary Inspector is the appointed authorized officer under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and regular inspections are made in each of the registered slaughter-houses, shops and vehicles in the district.

Where notice is given of occasional slaughter, the Inspector immediately proceeds to the place of slaughter and examines the carcase and internal organs.

Every assistance has been rendered in all cases by the butchers and others concerned.

There are no public slaughter-houses.

The Humane Killer was made compulsory in all slaughter-houses in the district from October 21st, 1925.

The following tabular statement shows the number of private slaughter-houses in use at the dates mentioned :—

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	0	0	19
Licensed	0	0	0
Total in use	13	14	19



**Other Foods.** No other food inspections have been found necessary in the district. The Sanitary condition of bake-houses has been found satisfactory.

**Food Poisoning** No cases have been reported during the period under review.

## Prevalence of & Control over Infectious Diseases.

Previous to 1921 the average number of cases of notifiable infectious disease was about 60 per annum. During the past five years this number has progressively diminished year by year to 32 in 1925. This decrease is relatively greater, as chickenpox has been a notifiable disease since January, 1923, and a number of these are included in the later years.

The district being a rural one with a more or less scattered population, it is natural that the prevalence of infectious disease is less than in more congested areas and that the spread of infection is less liable to occur. Consequently we find the Case Rate is less than in the towns and also less than the average for the country as a whole. Nothing in the nature of an epidemic of notifiable disease has occurred during the period under review, and it may be said that, so far as notifiable diseases are concerned, the district is in a satisfactory condition.

Diphtheria was formerly more prevalent in the district than it is now; in 1920 there were 35 cases. Since then the number has diminished each year, there being only 6 last year. This disease has been almost wholly confined to one comparatively small area in the district, the adjoining villages of Garton and Little Driffeld. Last year, however, Garton remained entirely free, and all the cases occurred at Little Driffeld. It is probable that "carriers" play an important part in causing the outbreaks, although the old property in Little Driffeld where several cases have occurred would be better demolished. No use has been made of the Schick test or of immunization, although no doubt this offers the best means of eradicating the disease. To control the spread of the disease the cases are as a rule promptly removed to Hospital and the premises disinfected. A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is maintained at the Council's offices in Exchange Street, Driffeld, and is available at any time to medical practitioners. It is supplied in vials of 8000 units for treatment and 500 units for prophylaxis.

Scarlet Fever has not been very prominent in the district during the period under review. It is a disease which has fluctuated, varying from 19 cases in 1921 to 1 in 1923 and 10 last year. A feature of this disease is that in almost every case it was possible to trace the outbreak to a source outside the district. "Return" cases have not been prominent although three such cases were noted at Middleton in November and December last year following two which occurred in August. It is difficult in the present state of our knowledge of this disease to account for these "return" cases. No use has been made of the Dick test.

Enteric fever is comparatively rare in the district. No cases have been reported during the past two years. In 1921 there were 4 cases and one in each of the two succeeding years.



The notification of pneumonia under the Regulations of 7th Jan., 1919, has been lax and no reliable figures are available.

One case of dysentery in a returned soldier occurred in 1921 and there has been none since.

No cases of encephalitis lethargica, malaria, trench fever or small-pox have occurred during the past 5 years.

No primary vaccinations or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

As regards non-notifiable acute infectious diseases, outbreaks of measles and whooping cough occur from time to time amongst the school children. School intimations of these outbreaks are efficient and, when necessary, are acted on and the schools closed.

#### **Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) in 1925.**

There were 24 cases notified, compared with 26 and 42 in the two preceding years. These may be tabulated in detail as follows:—

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	5	0
Diphtheria	6	6	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	7
Chicken-pox	6	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0

The Case Rate of these diseases per 1000 living in the district is as follows, and is compared with the equivalent rate for England and Wales in 1925.

	In District	In England and Wales
Smallpox	0.00	0.14
Scarlet Fever	0.86	2.36
Diphtheria	0.52	1.23
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.07
Puerperal Fever	0.00	0.06
Erysipelas	0.08	0.39

#### **Tuberculosis in 1925.**

Eight cases were notified during the past year. In addition there were three deaths from tuberculous disease which had not been notified previously. Thus, eleven new cases were discovered during the year. The total deaths were 8. This gives a ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths of 3 to 8. It is to be hoped this ratio will diminish in future. The Ministry of Health stresses the importance of the notification of tuberculosis and urges proceedings in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify. The cases for the year are set out in detail as follows:—



Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	
5	...	...	1	...	..	...	1	...	
10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	
15	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
20	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
25	...	2	...	...	...	1	..	...	
35	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	
45	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	
55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals	...	4	4	3	0	2	3	3	0

### **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925.**

No action has been necessary during the year under these Regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

### **Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.**

No action by the Council has been necessary under this section relating to compulsory removal to hospital.

### **Laboratory Work.**

Arrangements are in force whereby pathological and bacteriological specimens may be sent by medical practitioners to the Clinical Research Association, Watergate House, Strand, London, W.C.2, for examination for diagnostical purposes. Suitable outfits are supplied gratis to medical practitioners,

During the past year 16 throat and nasal swabs were examined for diphtheria, of which 4 proved to be positive.

Three specimens of blood were submitted to the Widal test for typhoid fever, none of which gave a positive reaction.

Eleven specimens of Sputum were examined for tubercle, 3 of which were positive.

Four samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination. These were all satisfactory.

In cases of suspected food poisoning, samples of food, vomit, containers, etc., may be sent to the Pathological Department of the Ministry of Health for examination and report. No cases have occurred in the district during the period under review.

I desire to place on record my appreciation of the help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, not only in compiling this report but at all other times.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

MARSHALL HAVER, M.B.

NAFFERTON,

May 31st, 1926.















